

CHURCH OF ST THOMAS MORE
INTERIOR DESIGN TEAM
Minutes of Meeting of June 14, 2011

Present:

Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor
Robert Habiger, Liturgical Consultant
Pat & Phil Goscienski, Chairpersons

Members of the Interior Design Team:

Kathy Arciero
Charlene Buhkert
Lorraine Doering
Diana Diaz
Ann Eriksson
Ricardo Juarez Frausto CJM
Douglas Lynn
Sondra Parks
Kathleen Quinn

Excused: Chris Smith, Mario Diaz

The meeting came to order at 7:00 PM with the opening prayer.

The minutes of the April meeting had been reviewed and approved as amended. We did not have minutes of the May meeting as that was a joint presentation by Renzo Zecchetto and Robert Habiger to the members of the Interior Design Team and the New Construction Committee.

Robert Habiger had several items to cover: Organization of the reservation chapel, the cross, the choir, the ceiling over the sanctuary, the ambo and movement regarding the ambo and the Stations of the Cross. He has been meeting at Renzo's office and exchanging e-mail messages. He said they are making good progress.

There was a meeting with the organ builder earlier in the day. They learned that the vertical space behind the choir will accommodate storage for the musical instruments and there will be room for the organ pipes. In addition there is space above the bathrooms where pipes can be placed. The organ builder they met with is Dale Sorenson with Lyle Blackinton Organ Builders and Associates. Attending the meeting were Father Mike, Sally Fay, Douglas Lynn, Robert Habiger and Renzo Zecchetto. Renzo will prepare drawings and have them ready in July. The purpose of the meeting was to be sure that the infrastructure for the organ is in the final plans.

The plans call for an organ with 35-50 ranks. The usual cost is \$20,000 per rank. The cost of the pipe organ will be about \$850,000. Maintenance will cost \$2,000-\$2,500 per year. The question of who will play the organ was brought up by Phil Goscienski. It is presumed that Sally Fay and other trained organists will be available.

Douglas Lynn stated that there will be no expense incurred for the future organ in the present plans. We will make space for the pipes and conduits in the construction plans.

Robert Habiger provided copies of preliminary drawings for the interior space as well as a large drawing that was placed on a backdrop. He pointed out that the exterior of the building will be almost a "mirror" of the present all-purpose building with the plaza between them. The elevation drawings we have seen are changed. The narthex is open but has a partially covered roof. There are two "family" bathrooms on the plaza, their entrance doors obscured by the sanctuary wall. Exterior wood surfaces will be found covered areas. This will assist in the maintenance of the wood. A ceremonial door is being designed.

The font is in the design phase. At present, an upper bowl will be used for blessing with the sign of the cross as people enter the sanctuary.

There will be a "slow" ramp around the altar. The rise is so gradual no hand rail will be needed.

The large cross will be permanently affixed to the wall behind the altar. It is recommended that the corpus be part of the cross and it should be nine to twelve feet high. In discussion with the artist we choose to make the crucifix, we want to keep in mind what "moment" of the crucifixion is to be displayed.

There was a discussion of pews and chairs. We need to accommodate 1,000 people, including 100 in the chapel. The CUP calls for no more than 1,200. We spoke of our concern for handicapped people. At the present time we see four to seven people sitting in chairs at the back of the hall with another six to eight in front. We expect 10-15 at each Mass. The California Code calls for a certain number of chairs for the handicapped in three categories: wheel chairs, side transfer (walkers) and ambulatory.

After a short break we talked about wedding ceremonies. The movable chairs in the front near the altar can be moved to accommodate the members of the wedding party.

We looked at drawings that show the movement of the readers from the congregation to the ambo. The movement will be considerably longer than what we are accustomed to now. Robert Habiger said he will would be available to conduct training for liturgical ministers if we so desire.

We discussed shrines, one for the Blessed Virgin Mary and one for St. Thomas More. There is no acceptable space for Mary's shrine in the plans at this time. We considered the area near the flower room but there are four entry/exits in the space and no room for quiet prayer. Robert Habiger said this space will be reconfigured. The shrine for St. Thomas More can be incorporated into the north east wall, possibly in several spaces reflecting upon Thomas More, the Man for All Seasons.

Plans for the Stations of the Cross at this time are for the first three stations to be placed indoors on the north east corner, and then proceed to an outdoor garden. The concept is for the stations to be individually designed and casted (perhaps in glass?) or sculpted on the walls. They will not be removable. A total of 15 stations would be designed. The question of vandalism for the outdoor stations was raised. It may be that the outdoor garden can be secured; this is a matter for future discussion.

There will be four dedication crosses on the interior walls.

The memorial garden remains in the same area at the southwest side of the church. Names of all donors will be memorialized, all equal in size and font. The parish website can also be used to name all the donors.

We discussed the use of an audio visual element wherein announcements and videos can be projected on the wall. We may need to use two walls. Considerations include the placement of projectors in the ceiling and the color of the walls.

Items in the interior design that are still being decided include: the music area, shrines, final seating, orientation of the ambo (not at the edge of the altar platform as in present drawings), outer doors, placement of the Book of Gospels, placement of candles near the altar, shape of the altar.

Other items of concern: chapel needs a center aisle to accommodate coffins and we need a place for funeral flowers. The priest's sacristy will need to be designed in such a way as to give access to the daily chapel as well as the Eucharistic hall. Some phrases from the writings of St. Thomas More may be incorporated into the shrine of St. Thomas More. The high windows in the sanctuary may have stained glass; concept is pending.

Chris Smith was unable to attend the meeting. She sent a letter with her concerns that was read aloud by Pat Goscienski. The letter is part of these minutes.

Father Mike told us we that we are still \$350,000 short of our \$2 million goal for Phase II of our capital campaign. We need to remember that we are building to budget. We are focusing on the church and then we will be focusing on the parish offices. In both buildings, we will have to adjust our desires in order to fit the budget.

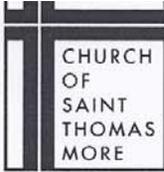
However, the good news is that the weekly offertory is up 4% over our budget projections for this year and the Golf Classic and Dinner netted more than \$60,000, our largest amount ever. These are signs that parishioners are excited and responding to the fact that we will soon be breaking ground.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 12.
We closed with prayer at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Quinn

Att: Copy of letter from Chris Smith



June 14, 2011

Interior Design Team Meeting
Input/Chris Smith

Attention: Pat and Phil Goscienski, Chairpersons

Since I am out of town for the meeting tonight, here is my input to be shared with the committee as we move forward with our build out plans.

1. After our last IDT meeting in April, and the joint meeting in May with Renzo and Robert present, it is clear that we are working within budget confines. While we have done well with Phase II of our capital campaign, we have not reached our goal of \$2M and it doesn't appear likely that will happen. We have steady support from some of our new parishioners, but that is not enough to reach the \$350K mark necessary to make it to \$2M.

Know that all options have been explored during this campaign phase, and for a variety of reasons, including the economy, this is our reality. Some donors feel we are being too extravagant with this build out. We face a new challenge in 2012 with the 'mortgage phase.'

It is essential that we are respectful of working within the confines of the money we have, and know that 'trimming' is a necessary part of our process. Certain liturgical pieces should be prioritized early on and budgeted accordingly.

2. The method for our memorials in the new church needs to remain an important part of discussion and planning. Throughout this campaign, as well as in previous campaigns, memorials have come up often in discussions with donors. This is particularly true with people memorializing deceased loved ones, though current donors look to have their names somewhere in the church area as well. In 2004, this was noted as the Memorial Garden. If this needs to be updated, Robert, Renzo and our team should continue to work toward a decision on location and materials that will be used.
3. Pipe Organ ~ the future purchase of this item would *most likely* have to come from a major donor, just as our current organ was financed by one donor. I am a fan of the organ, though there are a number of parishioners who are not. Sound is a huge issue, and currently our organ sound often drowns out everything else in the room.

The size of our new church does not appear to be large enough to accommodate a large pipe organ. My encouragement is that the plan for retrofitting this future purchase be in keeping with an organ size, and volume, that will not dominate the limited space we have. Ditto our budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Smith
Director of Stewardship & Development

CC: Fr. Mike Ratajczak
Robert Habiger

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